

FEB 1 1996
TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE FILE 2129
BY WISE

Passed House, Date _____ Passed Senate, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the use of flashing warning lamps on school
2 buses.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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HF 2129

1 Section 1. Section 321.372, subsection 1, unnumbered
2 paragraph 1, Code Supplement 1995, is amended to read as
3 follows:

4 The driver of a school bus used to transport children to
5 and from a public or private school shall, when stopping to
6 receive or discharge pupils, turn on red flashing warning
7 lamps at a distance of not less than three hundred feet nor
8 more than five hundred feet from the point where the pupils
9 are to be received or discharged from the bus if the speed
10 limit at that point is forty-five miles per hour or greater
11 and shall turn on red flashing warning lamps at a distance of
12 not less than one hundred fifty feet from the point where the
13 pupils are to be received or discharged from the bus if the
14 speed limit at that point is less than forty-five miles per
15 hour. At the point of receiving or discharging pupils the
16 driver of the bus shall bring the bus to a stop, ~~turn-off-the~~
17 ~~amber-flashing-warning-lamps,~~~~turn-on-the-red-flashing-warning~~
18 ~~lamps,~~ and extend the stop arm. After receiving or
19 discharging pupils, the bus driver shall turn off all flashing
20 warning lamps, retract the stop arm and proceed on the route.
21 Except to the extent that reduced visibility is caused by fog,
22 snow, or other weather conditions, a school bus shall not stop
23 to receive or discharge pupils unless there is at least three
24 hundred feet of unobstructed vision in each direction.
25 However, the driver of a school bus is not required to use
26 flashing warning lamps and the stop arm when receiving or
27 discharging pupils at a designated loading and unloading zone
28 at a school attendance center or at extracurricular or
29 educational activity locations where students exiting the bus
30 do not have to cross the street or highway.

31 Sec. 2. Section 321.372, subsection 3, Code Supplement
32 1995, is amended to read as follows:

33 3. The driver of a vehicle, including the driver of a
34 vehicle operating on a private road or driveway, when meeting
35 a school bus with red flashing amber warning lamps shall

1 reduce the vehicle's speed to not more than twenty miles per
2 hour, and shall bring the vehicle to a complete stop when the
3 school bus stops and the stop signal arm is extended. The
4 vehicle shall remain stopped until the stop signal arm is
5 retracted after which time the driver may proceed with due
6 caution.

7 The driver of a vehicle, including the driver of a vehicle
8 operating on a private road or driveway, overtaking a school
9 bus shall not pass a school bus when red or-amber warning
10 signal lights are flashing. The driver shall bring the
11 vehicle to a complete stop no closer than fifteen feet from
12 the school bus when it is stopped and the stop arm is
13 extended, and the vehicle shall remain stopped until the stop
14 arm is retracted and the school bus resumes motion.

15 EXPLANATION

16 Current law requires that a school bus be equipped with
17 flashing amber warning lights and that the amber lights be
18 displayed at a distance of not less than 300 feet nor more
19 than 500 feet from the point where the pupils are to be
20 received or discharged from the bus. When the school bus
21 driver stops the bus, the amber lights must be turned off, the
22 red lights turned on, and the stop arm extended. This bill
23 requires that instead of having both amber and red flashing
24 warning lights, a school bus display only flashing red warning
25 lights.

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